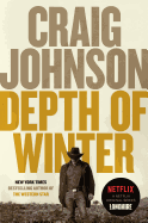




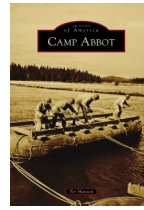
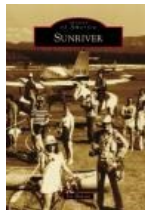
Sunriver Books & Music
October 2018
Newsletter
Sunriverbooks.com
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*Thank you Craig Johnson for returning to Sunriver Books & Music!
Thank you Sunriver for being a great audience!
Thank you to our volunteers and staff for helping put on the event.
Depth of Winter continues the Longmire series in a thriller set in Mexico.*



Depth of Winter debuted at #5 on the New York Times Bestseller List!



Sunriver is 50 years old!!! Saturday October 20 at 5:00 PM we celebrate with a slide show presentation of Tor Hanson's latest book, aptly titled, **Sunriver**. Tor's last book **Camp Abbot**, gives a slice of Sunriver's history, the time during WWII when it was a training camp for engineers needed in the war effort. **Sunriver** spans a much longer time frame, from the time of mastodons to current day. Full of great photos showing what came before (Black Angus cattle happily munching near their home now known at the Great Hall) to today's Sunriver Music Festival (also held in the aforementioned hall, though without the Black Angus cattle).

For years we have heard the desire of visitors and residents for a book that told about Sunriver, what to do, where to do it, and what came before. Tor Hanson answers all these questions in **Sunriver**. Want to know the story about the development of current day Sunriver? It is right here in the book. Curious about the earlier explorers? They are included.

Sunriver's commitment to the environment, one of our main reasons for settling here, is highlighted. The Sunriver Nature Center is at the heart of what Sunriver is about, humans attempting to live in harmony with the environment, being good stewards of the forest and the many creatures that have lived here long before houses for people were contemplated. Hanson points out the significant contribution of individuals working toward making this dream a reality, such as Jay Bowerman who has worked tirelessly for three decades to keep this mission intact. It is our hope that Sunriver continues to support the Sunriver Nature Center and the commitment to living in harmony with nature for the next fifty years too.

Sunriver is also a place to play! Kayak, play tennis, ride bikes, golf, dine at great restaurants, shop in the village, it is all included in Tor's book. This is the perfect book to give guests in advance of their time in vacation and for residents to read too!

Tor's last presentation was informative, fun, and expertly presented. We are eagerly anticipating his new book, **Sunriver**! Sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, emailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday January 12, 2019 5:00 PM ***Violet Tendencies, The Pint of No Return, Live and Let Pie,***
by Kate Dyer-Seeley, also writing as Ellie Alexander.

Join us to enjoy fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend these free events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Space may be limited for some events. Check sunriver-books.com for changes or additions to the schedule.

A word from the Sunriver Stars.

Award Winning Musical "Oliver" Hits the Stage!

"WOW!" Grab your tickets and prepare to be amazed as 48 of your friends and neighbors sing, dance and act their way into your hearts as they present Charles Dickens's time-honored tale of the orphaned boy Oliver as he searches for love and belonging.

"Oliver", adapted from the original by Wayne R. Scott, will open the 6th Season of our local community theater troupe, The Sunriver Stars, and be performed at The Door, 56885 Enterprise Drive under the direction of Victoria Kristy.

How did Sunriver get so lucky to have it's very own community theater?

"A lot of wonderful things had to happen to make my dream come true," says Kristy, Artistic Director and Founder of SSCT. "My background is directing children's theater but when my husband and I retired to Sunriver, it just seemed natural to start a theater for the community that would offer performance opportunities for all ages. I love to see 8 year olds and 80 year olds on stage together!" she says.

Kristy followed directions of the AACT (American Association of Community Theater) at the end of 2011, chose a name for her troupe, asked her son-in-law Nolan Thompson to draw up a logo, opened a bank account, gathered some local actors through an article she wrote for The Scene and went looking for a 'home'.

"With just my vision and next to no money in the SSCT bank account, I began reaching out to local organizations for a place to hold our shows. I wrote letters to Sunriver churches and businesses explaining what I wanted to do and only one responded. Griffin Prebbie, then activities director of the yet unopened SHARC, contacted me and told me he thought we would be the perfect fit!" Kristy re-

members. "Without Griffin's and SHARC's belief in us, I doubt we would now be presenting our 26th show!"

Using that amazing venue for free for the first few years was perfection but when the new rental rules were implemented, we knew we would have to look elsewhere. That's when the kind pastors at a newly formed Sunriver area church came to our rescue! They had never even attended one of our productions but Door pastor Brent Maxwell heard we were looking for a performance space and said, 'You're a community theater and we are part of the community....we have a building and we want to share'," Kristy exclaims! "We are not a part of their church at all but they just opened their doors to us and said 'Come put your shows on here!'"...now that is community WOW!

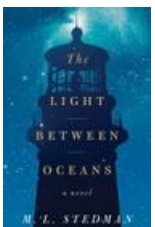
Four times a year the Sunriver stars are invited to transform the Door space into the imaginary places theater is bound to take us. When you enter the 'theater' beginning October 19th, you will be transported to the streets of Victorian England. Black pipe and drape surround the walls and bring intimacy to the usually open space. A two level set, created by Doug Griffin will make you believe you have stepped into a time machine and are wandering the back alleys of London. Glorious Victorian era costumes will add to the magic and those 48 local actors ranging this time in age from 5 to mid seventies will make you so proud that we have our very own community actors group and a place to perform, you'll want to join!

"Oliver" runs October.19-20- and 25-26-27th Tickets and information may be found at sunriverstars.org

A Month of Australia!

Travel the world through the pages of a book. Each October we focus on a country or region outside the USA. Books allow us to step into other cultures, other landscapes, taking us on journeys while we read. Experiencing other countries this way builds understanding and is enjoyable. This October we focus on Australia, join us in reading books set down under.

Nancy Nelson Recommends.



The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman. This is a book that stirs the emotions. In the end I found myself smiling through my tears. Tom Shelbourne has just come to the town of Point Partageuse after having served his tour of duty at the Western Front of WW I. He is a kind, sensitive, meticulous man who wants only to put the horrors of the past four years behind him. He begins a new life as lighthouse keeper on the lonely desolate island of Janus Rock, and fairly soon after marries Isabel. The two are happy, planning on a family. Isabel eventually has two miscarriages, then a baby who is stillborn. She is devastated. One night the miracle happens. They hear the sounds of a baby crying. A shipwrecked boat is found. Inside are a two month old baby girl and the body of her dead father. Tom is ready to report the incident, but Isabel talks him out of it. They keep the little girl, raising her as their own. Tom is both disturbed by the moral ambiguity of keeping this secret, and enchanted with the baby. As they eventually discover the identity of the mother, they are faced with the problem of telling the truth. Isabel cannot. Throughout the rest of the story the reader is drawn into the heartbreaks and the complications brought on by their initial decision to keep this secret. Whatever they do, someone will be hurt. I found I could not put this book down as I experienced their losses and their joys. The characters were very believable, the main characters endearing. I loved this book and highly recommend it.

A Month of Australia!

Sue Halvorsen recommends.



Bittersweet by Colleen McCullough. It is nice to have Colleen McCullough back with a book about two sets of twins who actually like and help each other. Each of the sisters is unique and has her own idea of what she wants. They enroll in one of the earliest nurse training programs near their home. One sister knows that she will never marry and will become the nurse of the future. Two of the sisters do marry and life is interesting for them both on two entirely different levels. The oldest sister manages to accomplish her life's desire in a way that surprised me. I enjoyed this book so much I stayed up until 2:30 AM to finish it!

Deon recommends.



A Town Like Alice by Nevil Shute is one of my favorite selections set in Australia. Shute is a gifted author who can write with down home friendliness or portray scenes of despair that feel genuine. The first half of **A Town Like Alice** is set during WWII in Malaysia. A group of English women and children were captured by the Japanese who had no idea what to do with them or where to put them. So they would send them on, the original Japanese officer sent them on in the hope they would be sent to a prison camp for women in Singapore. As it became clear there was no prison camp willing to take them, they went from town to town, camp to camp, hoping for a place to wait out the war, always sent on by the officer in charge to be someone else's problem. With little to eat, they became weak, succumbed to illness and many perished. Jean was a secretary in her twenties when they were captured, she had remained behind to help a friend with her three children, thinking there would be time to get away before the Japanese soldiers arrived. As they walk hundreds of miles through difficult conditions Jean grew strong, she spoke Malay thus was able to help her Japanese captor in negotiating for shelter and food in the villages they passed. Eventually she meets Joe, an Australian captive working in the Japanese motor pool. He aids Jean in getting medicine and a friendship ensues, with Joe telling Jean stories that cheer her about Alice Springs in Australia and his life on a cattle ranch. After crossing Malaysia, the women find shelter in a Malay village where they work side by side with the villagers in the rice fields. When the war is over, Jean returns to England and inherits a considerable sum. Remembering the kindness of the villagers who took them in and shared what little they had, Jean returns to Malaysia to have a well dug for the villagers in gratitude for the compassion and shelter they gave the women. Things had gone badly for Joe in captivity, Jean was certain he died. The villagers were able to lift that sadness from her, telling her of his miraculous survival thus changing forever the trajectory of Jean's life. The second half of **A Town Like Alice** takes place in Australia and the tone changes. Their courtship, joy at finding each other, and accomplishments in building a home and community are a delight to read. Jean was made resilient by her experiences, she is a force to be reckoned with. Joe's stories told of Alice, a town that had many of the amenities an English lass would find to her liking such as theater, dress shops, and ice cream parlors. Pretty tree lined streets with tidy houses completed the picture. This was not the Australia that Joe inhabited. He managed a cattle station, often gone for days riding out to check on the cows. It was remote, isolated with no society or amenities. He feared that it would not suit Jean. There was no need to worry, Jean transitioned from buses and sidewalks to horses and pastures just fine. If the little local settlement was not cute like Alice and lacked female companionship, no problem. She would make their outpost into **A Town Like Alice**. This is a well written, lovely book. Even more so as it is inspired by the experiences of a Dutch woman, Mrs. Geysel-Vonick.

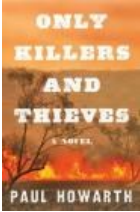


The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton is set in England and Australia. In 1913 a ship docked in Australia, everyone disembarked and left, everyone but a tiny little girl who did not know her parents surname or where they could be reached. Her only possession was a small suitcase with a remarkable book of fairy tales. Hugh, the dock master, took her home, after all he couldn't leave her sitting outside alone on the dock! His wife desperately wanted a child, as the days passed and no one claimed the little girl, they named her Nell and she became the first of their children. Over time Nell's memory of her origins was replaced by the memories of growing up with her Australian family. She was such a little tyke when she was found by Hugh, that it was expected she would forget. When Nell turned 21, Hugh determined to tell her what he knew about her origins. It changed everything for Nell, she no longer felt tethered to her life, part of a family, now she felt other, adrift and alone. The distance his disclosure created between Nell and her Australian family broke Hugh's heart. When he died, one of her sisters delivered to her the small suitcase. Memories of a woman, the authoress, started coming back. In the 1970's Nell traveled to England, determined to find out who she really was, but other obligations prevented continuing the pursuit of her origins. When Nell dies in 2005, her granddaughter Cassandra was shocked to discover what little was known about Nell's birth family, Nell had kept the knowledge a secret shared only with her father, Hugh. Cassandra and Nell lived together in Brisbane where they ran an antique shop. Without Nell, there was nothing tying Cassandra down, Nell had raised her since she was a little girl. She determines to retrace Nell's steps to Blackhurst Manor on the Cornish Coast and unlock his secrets of the past.

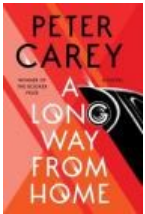


The Railwayman's Wife. Ani Lachlan leads a lovely life, for a time. She is adored by her husband, Mac, they have a bright young daughter, Isabel, and they live near the sea in a small town in Australia. Many men died or were damaged by WWII, but Mac's job on the railway kept him home, safe with her. Mac's passions are his family and his job. It is a good life. Until it is shattered. Until the day it is not Mac who comes home, but a black car carrying officials from the railroad with the news that Mac was killed in a tragic accident, his body too battered for Ani to even view. It wasn't supposed to be like this. The war was over, the men safe now, but of course he wasn't safe. Tomorrow is not a guarantee. While this is a book about grief, loss, and the damage inflicted by war, it is also a book about hope, remembrance, and the beauty of love. As Ani struggles to build a new life for herself and Isabel, she remembers her time with Mac. Ani also befriends two men from the community who bear the damage inflicted by war. Roy is a poet whose wartime experiences have left him adrift. Frank is a doctor who suffers guilt for those he did not save.

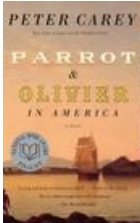
Ani takes a post in the library to make ends meet; it is through books they may find solace and new beginnings. The writing is lyrical and hauntingly beautiful..



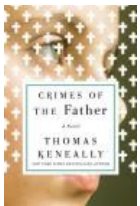
Only Killers and Thieves by Paul Howarth. In the far reaches of 1880's Australia, the land is sere, hot, desolate, survival demanding toughness and unforgiving of error. Aborigines lived here for eons, but now the Europeans own the land and a devastating drought leaves them cranky and unwilling to share its resources. The sparsity of forage and water has hit the McBride family hard; Ned McBride isn't a game hand at running a ranch in the best of times. His two sons, Tommy 14 and Billy 16 try to help out by hunting what little wildlife has survived but still it is a struggle. Billy admires the harshness of their neighbor, John Sullivan, who uses Inspector Edmund Noone and the Queensland Native Police to push his goal of eradicating Aborigines from the land. Sullivan is a much more successful farmer, something Billy aspires to be himself. Tommy isn't so sure about the merit of their neighbor Sullivan; his parents do not admire Sullivan at all. He likes Arthur, their Aborigine ranch hand, is sure of his kindness and goodwill. Arthur has been with the McBride family a long time, clearly Sullivan's attitude to Aborigines is harsh. Finally rain comes, joyous wonderful rain. The two teenage boys ride to a favorite swimming hole to spend the day. When they return, the farm is ominously quiet, unnaturally so. Their parents are both dead, their sister grievously wounded. Earlier Ned McBride had an argument with Joseph an Aborigine working for him, resulting in his dismissal. Billy is certain this man is the villain. He overrides Tommy's suggestion of heading to town with their injured sister; instead taking her to Sullivan's spread where he has a medical man on staff. Things go from bad to worse, as Sullivan uses this as his excuse to unleash his fury on the native population with far reaching consequences for the brothers.



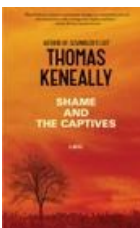
A Long Way From Home by Peter Carey. Opening with zest and humor, the story introduces the Bobs, Irene and Titch. They are devoted to each other, full of humorous quirks, and basically a happy couple except for the pushy intrusion of Titch's father, a man who treated his son dismissively and annoys Irene to no end. Titch is a whiz with cars, a great driver and a brilliant car salesman. His dream is to open a car dealership, but it takes money. Moving into a new house with a garage large enough to hold a few cars to sell, they are quickly befriended by their neighbor Willie Bachhuber. He is a quiz show champion, although it doesn't really pay well, and he is at loose ends. He lost his job teaching school, money is tight; he is going to have to come up with some other way to make a living. About this time, Titch gets a sponsor to enter the Redex Trial, a brutal race in the 1950's that circumnavigates Australia, covering incredibly challenging roads, extreme heat, large expanses of outback with miles between small towns. The winner would be famous, feted and honored throughout the land. But most of the entrants would fail, left along the side of the road broken, lost to obscurity. So the odds are against them, but Titch can drive like crazy and Irene is no slouch behind the wheel either, they make for a great team. With one exception, they need a good navigator. Willie is pressed into service, after all he doesn't have a day job and it will be an adventure. It is at this point that the story begins to change from an amusing tale to something darker and more serious. When their team leaves white Australia, heading into the outback, they enter a different world. A world with secrets and dangers, a world where race will determine who has power. Carey is a lively writer!



Parrot & Oliver in America by Peter Carey tells a rousing good story. Through a series of unfortunate events Oliver, the son of aristocrats who survived (barely) the French Revolution, ends up heading to America accompanied by a reluctant servant, Parrot. Poor Parrot survived fire, the Australian penal colony, and a variety of mishaps only to be saddled with keeping the snobbish Oliver out of harm's way. America is a bit of a shock to Oliver's upper class sensibilities. But it is just the type of environment for Parrot's talents to thrive. The story is great fun, told with humor and verve. Set in America, Europe and Australia.

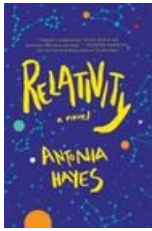


Crimes of the Father by Thomas Keneally. Father Frank Docherty is a free thinker, willing to err on the side of compassion. The plight of children in brothels, the Vietnam War, and apartheid were all causes that he felt compelled to address. His superiors disagreed; he was sent packing from Australia to a remote post in Canada. There Frank found a community interested in his ideas, studied at university, and wrote papers about the tough topic of celibacy and priests abusing their power. Years have gone by, Frank's mother is aging, and he would like to come home. Invited to speak at a conference and given a ticket, it seems like an opportunity to make a case to the powers that be for returning. No sooner does he step onto Australian soil than he encounters a victim of abuse. The taxi driver who picks him up at the airport is enraged when she discovers she is delivering a priest to a monastery. Sarah Fagan, the cabdriver, is a former nun, her abuser a powerful monsignor ironically overseeing compensation to victims of abuse. When a young man's suicide note accuses the same monsignor, Frank feels he must act, must bring this matter not only to his superiors in the church but also to the criminal authorities of the state. Not a move that will endear him to the church's leaders or pave his way for a return to Australia. This is a thoughtful book, with an admirable main character trying his best to do what is right despite the toll it may cost him personally. While it is centered on the Catholic Church and issues the church has faced, it is also an examination of the harm that is caused when power is abused and the abuser is shielded in any situation. This can happen in the office of a Congressman, the local school, or the couch of a therapist. Frank is a character you will enjoy reading about and admire. Keneally is best known for writing **Schindler's List**.

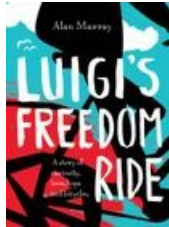


Shame and the Captives by Thomas Keneally. Near a small town, out in the Australian countryside in a farming community, a prison of war camp houses Italians and Japanese. While the Italians are eager to get along, wanting to work on the local farms, and looking forward to going home when the war is over, the Japanese have a very different view. They are horrified at the shame of being captured. False names are given to keep their families from being dishonored by their capture. They cling to the hope that surely when the war ends their captors would shoot them all to assuage their shame. The local farmers are happy to take on Italian prisoners for farm workers, most of the able bodied men are off serving in the war so the prisoners provide needed labor. And the Italians are delighted to get out of the prison and have a bit more freedom. Of course as these vastly differing cultures mingle and misunderstand, tragedy looms. The characters are well drawn and keep you reading to see what fate awaits them. In **Shame and the Captives** Keneally weaves real events into a fictional narrative that make the experiences seem real and present.

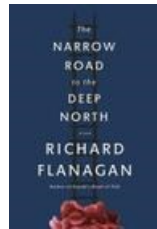
A Month of Australia.



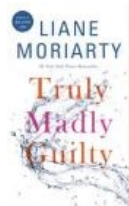
Relativity by Antonia Hayes. Claire was a gifted ballerina on the cusp of a brilliant career when she embraced motherhood and moved from the footlights to the office. Ethan is an unusual child, exceedingly intelligent but socially outcast. School is torment for him, while he enjoys learning (thrives on physics, math, and astronomy), he is bullied by the other kids. Claire and Ethan live in Sydney, Australia. As the story opens they are in Jubilee Park in the middle of the night to watch a meteor shower, the two have a strong, loving relationship. Still Ethan is curious about his father, Claire won't say much, so he knows little about the man other than the few facts gleaned from his birth certificate. Mark lives on the other side of Australia, trying to forget the past. Circumstances will converge, a call for Mark to return to his father's side, an emergency involving Ethan, and they will have to face the tragedy that tore their family wide apart when Ethan was a babe. Life can change in a heartbeat; one action you wish you could take back will alter the rest of your days. Hayes wrote in all three voices, Claire, Ethan and Mark, giving the reader all perspectives. Likeable characters and a plot that makes you reflect, this is a good book club choice.



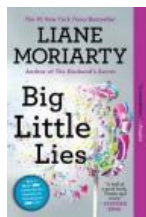
Luigi's Freedom Ride by Alan Murray. Luigi's childhood is spent in the Tuscan hills with a loving mother, doting uncle, and best friend ready to share all adventures. An Englishman passes through on a bike trek to Rome in 1931. Already Brown Shirts and Fascists are making their presence felt. They cause an accident that leaves the Englishman injured and the bike too damaged to proceed to Rome. The Englishman, grateful for the care and concern of the Italian family, gives the bike to Luigi. Assisted by his uncle, Luigi spends the summer repairing his bike; in the years to come it gives him freedom and fun. Luigi lives into his 80's, through times of upheaval, war, and prosperity. He sees many changes. WWII will try him, travel will give him a new perspective, and emigration to Australia will be his new homeland. Luigi lives a life full of friendship, love, and a concern for doing the right thing. There is much hardship in the war years, but there will also be freedom and joy. This is a charming story.



Narrow Road to the Deep North by Richard Flanagan won the Man Booker prize. Dorrego Evans, a surgeon, is a prisoner of war, working to build the Death Railway through Burma and Thailand with 9000 other miserable Australian souls captured by the Japanese. The endeavor killed almost 100,000 Allied prisoners and was made famous by the book and movie, **The Bridge Over The River Kwai**. Flanagan's father was an Australian prisoner working on the railway, giving the story intimacy for the author. Dorrego is a complicated guy and although the building of the railroad is central the novel ranges far and wide from its time in WWII. Dorrego has an affair with his uncle's wife. After the war he becomes something of a hero because of his experiences as a POW. This ambitious novel takes on many serious subjects with nuance and sensitivity: race relations, unhappy marriages, family secrets, what it means to live a good life, and whether a man can encompass both good and bad.



Liane Moriarty writes stories that have a light tone while tackling important societal issues. They should be beloved of the mommy crowd because they portray women raising families while staying involved, vital, and relevant to their community. In **Truly Madly Guilty** we know from the start that something bad happened at a neighborhood barbeque. What that something was takes a while to unfold, the story is told in two time frames. Current day the characters are trying to get on with life in the aftermath, in alternate chapters the reader learns what happened on that fateful day in a suburban backyard. Meanwhile you get to know the players, their hopes and fears. Clementine is a violinist auditioning for a coveted position with the orchestra, the culmination of her aspirations. Sam works in business. They have two young daughters and live in an old world charmer in the city. Erika and Oliver are both accountants, devoted to each other, and uber organized. Erika's childhood was rough, her mother's hoarding making home unfit. Pam, Clementine's mom, took pity on the bedraggled child bringing her into their orbit and instigating a childhood friendship between the two girls. Now as adults it remains an uneasy relationship. Erika and Oliver's next door neighbors, Tiffany and Vid are clearly financially well off, with fancy cars, fancy house, and, of course, a fancy yard. They are also a loving couple, caring parents to their daughter Dakota. It is in their backyard the fateful barbeque takes place. Want to know what happened? Read the book! It is fun to read and goes interesting places related to our responsibility to each other.

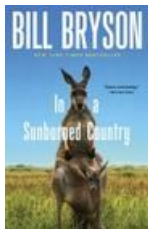


Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty is now an HBO series. Three women come together when their children attend the same school. Jane is a single mom, her son Ziggy trying to fit into a new environment as they have just moved to the beachside community. Jane is wiry, prone to casual, and worried about being the best mom possible to Ziggy. Madeline is one of those women who like to organize others' lives but are so nice, efficient and well meaning that they are generally popular, her daughter Chloe is a chip right off of the block. Both fashion conscious, girly, and determined. Celeste is a stunner, one of those effortlessly gorgeous women who are unconcerned about their looks, married to a handsome successful man and so genuinely nice that everyone likes her. Celeste's twin sons are a handful. At orientation day Ziggy is accused of hurting a little girl, he refuses to apologize, and swears he is innocent. The little girl, Anabelle, is a friendly, popular child, her mother the alpha parent in the school, head of a clique of similarly blond women who instigate a policy of shunning little Ziggy. A policy Madeline will not abide. From this start the story goes interesting places.



Silver Bay by Jojo Moyes. Kathleen Whittier Mostyn has lived her whole life in **Silver Bay** in the hotel she inherited from her father. Her sister left, moved to England, and had a daughter. The hotel was quite a success back in its glory days, but by the time Kathleen is in her 70's the place is no longer hopping. A few years ago, Kathleen's niece Liza arrived with her daughter Hannah, in distress and carrying a passel of secrets. It was rough going for a while, Kathleen was unused to children and they were so evidently traumatized but by now they have formed a tight knit group and look out for each other. Boats take tourists out to watch whales and dolphins, bringing a few customers to the hotel. The sea creatures saved Liza, giving her hope and a reason to go on. Liza keeps her secrets close, avoids relationships with men, and watches her daughter like a hawk. Mike Dormer shows up at the hotel, obviously used to more sumptuous digs, expensively dressed, with a kindly manner, and openly attracted to Liza. His stay keeps extending, but what does this Englishman really want and could it destroy both Liza's sanctuary along with the lives of the dolphins and whales?

Month of Australia.



In a Sunburned Country by Bill Bryson is an account of his rambles around Australia. He covers an amazing swath of territory, leaving me wanting to travel there too! While this is a great travel memoir, it is also one of Bryson's books, so it is full of funny stories. In a park he proves that he has no clue how to act around dogs that might not be kindly disposed towards him. He includes background on the area's history, landscape, flora, and fauna; making certain to let you know there are lots of critters that are deadly and can kill in unpleasant ways. There is something about the way Bryson visits a country, how he gets the feel for the landscape just right while telling funny bits about his mishaps along the way. Australia has a lot of country to visit too! Rainforests, the outback, the Great Barrier Reef, and lots more.



Resurrection Bay by Emma Viskic. Cops find Caleb Zelic cradling the bloody body of a dead man. Proximity to a murder victim is considered at worst suspicious and a least worthy of a few questions by the Melbourne police. Questions are complicated, Caleb is profoundly deaf. He is adept at reading lips but people are not always looking straight at him when they speak and the current situation has him distressed, not the best frame of mind for answering questions. Gary, the victim, was a cop, one of their own, so the cops are upset too. The story emerges. Caleb runs a detective agency, they were looking into warehouse burglaries, and Gary was persuaded to help, making a little money on the side. Gary had a wife and kids, a few extra dollars were welcome. That was a few days ago. Tonight Gary texted Caleb, he was in trouble, but by the time Caleb arrived it was all over, Gary had been brutally murdered. Caleb's partner, Frankie, is a former cop, she knows how devastating this is for Caleb, the two men grew up together. Caleb vows to find Gary's killer, but what brought Gary to the murderer's attention? Was it the warehouse job, as Caleb's guilt tells him, or might it have been one of his cases as a police officer? It is rapidly borne home to Caleb that they can trust no one, seriously dangerous people are willing to kill over something and he needs to find out what that something is soon if he is going to stay alive. In over his head, he turns to his ex-wife, a gifted aboriginal artist and a woman he still loves deeply. Fearing she may now be in danger, he persuades her to return to their childhood home, to get away from Melbourne. But **Resurrection Bay** may not be far enough to stop a killer. Viskic writes sensitively about a deaf man navigating the world, and what challenges he overcomes. She crafts characters who engage the reader, with suspense and drama to keep the pages turning.



Force of Nature by Jane Harper has superb writing and a remote wilderness setting. **The Dry** introduced Federal Agent Aaron Falk. In this second book in the series Falk and his new partner, Agent Carmen Cooper, are heavily involved investigating the financial shenanigans of Bailey Tennants, a respected company they suspect is rotten to the core. In order to bring down the powers that be at a corporation they need someone inside, someone with access to documents and knowledge of secrets. Alice Russell was high enough up the chain of command to have knowledge and access to documents. She is doing their bidding to avoid time in jail by delivering the material and information they need. Falk's superiors are chomping at the bit to finish the investigation and round up the crooks, they want a particular set of documents, now would be good, yesterday would be better. Feeling stress from above, Falk and Cooper put pressure on Russell. Then the call comes in the night, their inside woman, Alice Russell, is missing in the Giralang Range, a vast national wilderness. She was on a corporate retreat with four other women, the group headed by Jill Bailey. CEO Daniel Bailey was leading a group of men on another hiking track. Daniel, an outdoor enthusiast, insisted on these character building challenges for his employees. The plan was for the men to hike on one set of trails, the women another, stay out in the wilderness for a few days then return with renewed confidence and cooperation to their jobs and city life. The men exited the wilderness as expected, the women did not, when they were found Alice was not with them. Now as search parties comb the miles of dense wilderness, Falk and Cooper have to figure out if they put Alice Russell in mortal danger. Was she discovered sneaking documents? Both the Bailey siblings were in the woods with her, Daniel was supposed to be on another trail but it would be easy to connect with the women, out there far from civilization and help. Or did something else happen? Years ago a serial killer hunted in this preserve, taking the lives of women who looked remarkably similar to Alice. Is someone preying on women now? Did she simply get lost and fall victim to an accident? Did one of the dangerous denizens of the wilderness come in deadly proximity, snake bite could prove fatal quickly. Alice was a beautiful, intelligent woman, but not always kind, did someone hold a grudge? Or will the searchers find her somewhere in those woods, alive and well, simply lost?



Kerry Greenwood's delightful series has been made into popular TV dramas. The mysteries are great fun to read and begin with **Cocaine Blues**. Phryne Fisher left Australia for England as a wee lass, when her father inherited a fabulous amount of money and the title of Earl. She returns to Melbourne after WWI in the 1920's and is involved in investigating a poisoning in a wealthy household. While doing so she also begins investigating an abortionist who takes advantage of young women. Phryne is a looker, green eyed and gorgeous, just made to wear all the spangles and beads popular with flappers of the time. She is also a handful; willful and independent she is not easily dissuaded from interfering in investigations by the local police. Phryne is a thoroughly modern woman with healthy appetites and indulges with the Russian dancer, Sasha de Lisse. Being back in Melbourne is to her liking, she decides to stay. There is a cast of quirky interesting characters that are easy to like.



Flying Too High is Kerry Greenwood's second entry in the Phryne Fisher series. Phryne is trying her hand at being a private investigator, taking on two inquiries. A truly unpleasant man meets his end, Phryne's task is to find the killer thus clearing the prime suspect. The clock is ticking in her other case, finding a six year old girl before she is hurt by the kidnappers, time is precious. Being Phryne, she also takes time to seduce attractive men, fly planes, and drive fast in her hot Hispano-Suiza car, all while looking spectacular in the best flapper style duds. Phryne embodies the fun, adventurous spirit of the Roaring 20's! Reading one of the Phryne Fisher series will leave you feeling happy.

A Month of Australia.

James Patterson's Private series goes all over the globe to the world's most exclusive detective agencies. In ***Private Down Under*** by James Patterson and Michael White a new branch is opened in Australia. Justine Smith, second in charge of the LA office, is coming to Sydney to help with the grand opening. She has connections in the city, her sister Greta is married to Brett Thorogood, deputy commissioner of New South Wales Police. Craig Gisto is to head up the new office. The story goes all over Sydney, Craig, a handsome chap, is fond of fast cars (drives a Maserati GranCarbo) and beautiful women. A tragedy in his past made an enemy of a Sydney police officer, it will feature in the story. There is lots of snappy repartee, opulent digs, and the team at Private Sydney are a likeable group. Early on the murders will start, and they are gruesome. The son of a powerful Chinese businessman is brutally (and that is an understatement) slain, virtually on the doorstep of Private Sydney. Women living in a wealthy neighborhood are also being sadistically murdered. The settings, teamwork, and likeable characters are fun to read. No one can fault the story for lacking in body count, it rises quickly. It is a little bit like Robert Parker's Spencer meeting Thomas Harris' Hannibal Lector. Chilling.

James Patterson has a new series going with a respected Australian author, Candice Fox. ***Never Never*** introduces Detective Harry Blue, a tough as nails investigator in the sex crimes unit. She grew up rough, cycling through a series of foster homes, the only person she held close was her brother Sam. Shock doesn't even begin to describe her reaction when her beloved brother is arrested for the murder of three women. The investigation was kept secret from her, no clue of what was going on, and the lead investigator, Detective Inspector Nigel Spader, is not a man she respects. What are the chances that a trained investigator, someone who has learned the worst of human nature, would miss the signs her own brother was a serial killer? Harry finds it unlikely (another understatement). Chief Morris likes Harry, and she returns his regard. Nonetheless he is well aware of her tendency to violence and the likelihood she would be a loose cannon if left to her own devices in Sydney after her brother's arrest. Not to mention the field day the press would have with the sister of a serial killer being a flash tempered cop in the sex crimes unit. Chief Morris has Harry sent to a remote mining station in the desert near Kilgoorlie to investigate the death of a miner. She is saddled with a partner, Detective Edward Whittacker, a friendly likeable guy who just might have been sent to spy on her, find out if she knew anything about her brother's crimes. They discover a pattern of missing people from the mining station. It is remote, the facilities primitive, amenities non-existent so no one is concerned when a person stops showing up for work, it is assumed they couldn't hack it anymore and left. The money is great but eventually it is often not enough to keep the workers. Edward and Harry delve deeper, finding a pattern in the missing. This gritty series debut introduces detectives with a lot of heart that should keep readers interested.

Fifty Fifty by James Patterson and Candice Fox finds Detective Harry Blue's temper undiminished and Detective Edward Whittacker still eminently likeable. Chief Morris is barely able to keep her from serious consequences for punching out the prosecuting attorney in her brother's trial. The judge was dubious, but agreed to let Chief Morris send her away on assignment for a nine day cooling off period, preferably far away. White Cliffs, population 103, and Tibooburra, population 262, are 6 hours from Sydney on the western border of New South Wales, presumably far enough away to keep Harry out of trouble. Officer Victoria Snale is the only police officer, in the community. A truck driver found a notebook with a manifesto about killing people, it should be investigated. Federal Agent Elliot Kash is also on the case, he finds imaginary terrorists under every bush. Harry has just arrived when an explosion announces the start of the killing. Back in Sydney Detective Whittacker is trying to clear Sam Blue. Harry is not impressed with Detective Inspector Nigel Spader's intelligence or ethics, there is a substantial chance he made errors in arresting her brother. Both stories run simultaneously, both are gripping. Harry and Whitt are a good team.

A Few Right Thinking Men by Sulari Gentill introduces Rowland Sinclair, fabulously wealthy, artistically talented, and totally indifferent to the rules of class (much to the consternation of his family). He likes to dress well, paints in expensive suits often rendering them and portions of his anatomy rainbow hued. Woodland House, Rowland's home, is a lavish estate in Woolahra a tony neighborhood in Sydney, he shares his abode with a group of bohemians, artists, poets and such. Edna lives there, but not as his paramour, although he has been besotted with her since school days. Edna is an independent woman, not interested in marrying a handsome rich guy, not even her friend Rowly. She is interested in taking him to hear another of their friends speak at a rally, in 1931 the country was in a Depression and the communist party was gaining ground. Rowland (Rowly) Sinclair walks a line, friends with many in the communist party, yet also a member of a wealthy, influential family on the far right. As the story opens he has lunch with his namesake, his uncle Rowland Sinclair. The two men are fond of each other, always have been, they chat of this and that, Uncle Rowland is getting up in years but still fun and vital. A few days later Rowly gets a visit from the police, his Uncle Rowland has been murdered. Who would want to kill the harmless elderly man? The police quickly fix on his even more elderly, deaf housekeeper as a suspect. They do not seem inclined to investigate further. Rowly's older brother Wilfred is head of the family, makes all those pesky financial decisions Rowly completely ignores, and arranges the funeral for their Uncle Rowland Sinclair, near the Oklea family estate, a vast sheep ranching empire outside Yass. While there Rowly is disturbed by some of his brother's political friends, when he returns to the city he goes undercover to find out if there is a connection with his uncle's murder. Likeable characters, lots of period detail, great settings, and a generous sprinkling of humor make this series fun to read.

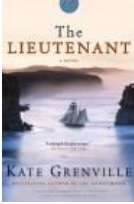
Signal Loss by Gary Disher, the latest in his Inspector Hal Challis, begins with two hit men, Lovelock and Pym, going seriously awry. Hector Kaye, a major drug dealer, pays them exceptionally well to take care of problems for him. Owen Valentine crossed Kaye and did a runner, Lovelock and Pym are to travel to Moonta, a small town in the back of beyond about an hour out of Victoria. They are to whack the guy, make him disappear, and return to Sydney. Their problems start with unfamiliarity, they are big city boys and know nothing of the dangers or customs of the country. Things do not go well. And this lands their corpses in Hal's jurisdiction. The fact they have a connection to a major drug dealer brings in Senior Sergeant Serena Coolidge of the Major Drugs Investigative Division, she is far more interested in their drug connection than the multiple bodies accumulating in Moonta. One of the aspects of this series I like is Hal's adult relationship with Sergeant Ellen Destry of the sex crimes unit. They both have homes they like and jobs they are good at. He is not threatened by her proficiency in a tough job. While he is working a murder, she is tracking a serial rapist. Both give the book good plot lines and lots of interest.

October 2018 Book Clubs. A Month of Australia

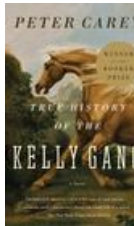
Globalization, travel, and history make it clear that understanding other countries and cultures is in all of our best interests, it can also be fun. Books take you to new lands, letting you experience the way different cultures work and develop empathy for other parts of the world. Books expand our horizons. Every October we have a themed month featuring books set in other countries or regions. This October is **A Month of Australia**. Book Club discussions are held on Mondays at 6 PM, everyone is welcome.



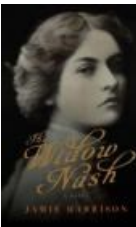
October 8 the Mystery Book Club discusses ***The Dry*** by Jane Harper. Twenty years ago Federal Agent Aaron Falk, then in his teens, left his childhood home in the farming community of Kiewarra under a cloud of suspicion. The only thing that saved him from a murder charge was the alibi provided by his best friend Luke. A teenage girl was dead, Aaron was the prime suspect. Falk lives in Melbourne and tracks criminals in the finance sector, a job he does well. He enjoys the anonymity of the city, yet he left some part of himself behind with all the unanswered questions. Luke saved him all those years ago, now he is going back to attend Luke's funeral. Luke murdered his wife and son, and then took his own life, sparing only his baby daughter. But Luke's parents want to be sure; they want Aaron to repay the debt to Luke from years ago by checking to ascertain if things might have happened differently than the official version or learn why their son committed this horrible crime. The local detective, Sergeant Greg Raco, also has questions with the official narrative, although it does seem rather cut and dried, all the evidence pointing to Luke. As Aaron delves into the secrets hidden in the drought suffering community, tempers flare. This gritty mystery is well written with clever plot twists and strong characters.



October 15 the Fiction Book Club discusses ***The Lieutenant*** by Kate Grenville. The USA was settled by white Europeans who displaced an indigenous population, same is true for Australia. ***The Lieutenant*** delves into what it was like for those early convict ships taking the English prisoners to far off Australia. Lieutenant Daniel Rooke, an astronomer, stands in this fictional account for the real Lieutenant William Dawes. Rooke is Second Lieutenant on the Resolution, a ship carrying marines to govern New South Wales, he is to navigate and document a comet. On arrival Rooke becomes interested in the aborigines, going so far as to learn their language and establish a meaningful friendship. In this he is an outlier, his fellow soldiers and the convict settlers relate to the aborigines differently, their treatment often brutal. This interesting historical novel shows the harsh displacement of indigenous people and the effect of this experience on one man who strives to make a difference.



October 22 the Classics Book Club discusses ***The True History of the Kelly Gang*** by Peter Carey, winner of the Booker Prize. We had Billy the Kid, the Australians had Ned Kelly. Both men had strong pushes into a life of crime from local law enforcement. Peter Carey portrays young Ned Kelly born into a boisterous family, a gifted horseman, wanting only to set himself and his family up with a ranch that would sustain them. It was not to be, bad decisions, timing, and the power of the local establishment all played against that outcome. As pressures mounted, he eventually fled with a gang, trying to explain their situation directly to the governor with a letter laying out the police involvement in dooming the gang. There are dramatic flights on horseback, gun battles, and a rather unique final confrontation, it makes for a thrilling read. Inside that action is the tragic story of a young man, downtrodden and ill-used by the authorities.



Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:00 PM

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

November

November 12, 2018 ***Bruno Chief of Police*** by Martin Walker [Mystery Book Club](#)

November 19, 2018 ***The Widow Nash*** by Jamie Harrison [Fiction Book Club](#)

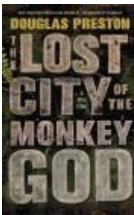
November 26, 2018 ***The Lost City of the Monkey God*** by Douglas Preston [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

December

December 10, 2018 ***Missing, Presumed*** by Susie Steiner [Mystery Book Club](#)

December 17, 2018 ***A Gentleman in Moscow*** by Amor Towles [Fiction Book Club](#)

Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at Sunriverbooks.com



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